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AUTHOR Gregory, Tom
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ABSTRACT

Adolescents have a strong need to feel that they belong. This book relates the story of a nontraditional high school, at which the author was a part-time staff member during the 1987-88 academic year. Data were gathered from participant observation and from interviews with 23 teachers and staff members, 42 students, and 6 educational professionals. The Jefferson County (Colorado) Open High School was unique in several ways: a small study body; students accepted regardless of their motivation, ability, or past school history; nongraded, self-evaluation; active, involved students; and individualized curriculum organized around six "passages" that embodied student challenges: Adventure, Career Exploration, Creativity, Global Awareness/Volunteer Service, Logical Inquiry, and Practical Skills. Trips throughout North and Central America were an important part of the school's educational program. Methodological notes are included in the appendix. (Contains 43 references.) (LMI)

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